

## PRESS OF BERLIN IS MAINLY AGAINST WILSON PROPOSAL

Purely American and Selfish, Declares George Bernhard in Vossische Zeitung.

### TAGEBLATT FAVORS IT.

Cologne Gazette Fears the President is Playing Into Hands of Lloyd George.

BERLIN, Dec. 23 (via London).—The Berlin press receives President Wilson's note to the belligerent powers with varying views, scarcely any two papers looking alike at the proposition. The views range from the enthusiastic welcome accorded the plan by the Tageblatt to the unexpectedly cynical quasi-acquiescence of the Vossische Zeitung, with the middle ground represented by the Lokal Anzeiger, which prefers to await the answer of the Entente powers to the German note before deciding for or against.

George Bernhard, in the Vossische Zeitung, views President Wilson's proposal as actuated purely from American selfish motives. America, he says, finds itself in the position of having passed the heyday point in its financial operations with the Entente and now wants peace and the operation of England in preparing for what it alludes to as the inevitable Japanese trouble.

Herr Bernhard refers to Secretary Lansing's statement regarding America being drawn to the verge of war as a distinct tip to Germany, yet he is convinced that America desires to avoid such a conflict, primarily, for selfish reasons.

"President Wilson's step we welcome," are the words with which Theodore Wolff opens his comment in the Tageblatt. He adds that quite regardless of feeling for or against President Wilson or the desires in some circles for war with America, no responsible politician capable of thinking has the right to reject peace proposals because they come from Washington. Herr Wolff points out that President Wilson undoubtedly has many sources of information as to the feeling toward peace in various warring countries and therefore is not guided by parliamentary speeches delivered for home and enemy consumption.

In ending his article Herr Wolff declares that, whatever may be the outcome of the proposition, the discussion of peace has in any event begun and cannot be hushed.

"Just because President Wilson's peace move is such a surprise," says the Cologne Gazette, "it is more necessary to be reserved in judging it. It is not very clear what the nature of Dr. Wilson's proposal is. If Dr. Wilson tries to bring about the publication of the conditions upon which the two groups are inclined to make peace he will aggravate instead of smoothing over the contrasts and only prolong the war. He would only be wanting what Lloyd George demanded in his speech, and would be playing the British game."

The Cologne Volks Zeitung says: "President Wilson's remark that his step is not prompted by the peace of the Central Powers shows that he has for a long time contemplated mediation for peace. What this peace would be we can easily imagine after Dr. Wilson's attitude toward this war. We must decline from the outset the participation of a neutral state, namely, the United States, as a responsible party in the proposed conference."

The Neuve Presse Press of Vienna, says President Wilson's note will have the effect at any rate of keeping the question of peace for some time in the foreground. It adds that the entente will be obliged to discuss a reasonable basis on which to end the war and that the desire for peace in the entente countries will be further strengthened.

The Vienna Allgemeine Zeitung remarks with satisfaction that Austria-Hungary and her allies considered the same moment opportune to prepare the way for peace negotiations. The Neuve Wiener Journal eagerly awaits the attitude of the entente toward President Wilson's move in view of the recent declaration of the leading statesmen of the entente that interference by neutrals, with the object of bringing about peace, would be scarcely a friendly act.

### SIX-DAY RACE SCORE.

(1922 Hour.)	Miles.	Laps.
Spears and McNamee	2412	8
Egg and Dupuy	2412	8
Root and Madden	2412	8
Hill and Drobach	2412	8
Kaiser and Cameron	2412	8
DeBevoise and Walther	2412	8
Smith and Kopecky	2412	7
Lawson and Mitten	2412	7
Thomas and H. Ort	2412	7
Baton and Ryan	2412	6
E. Ort and Bello	2412	6

Root leading. Record 2475 miles 6 laps made by Cameron and Kaiser in 1914.

Washing. Dec. 23.—A slight earthquake shock, lasting from 4.35 until after 5 o'clock, was registered today on the seismograph at Georgetown University. It apparently was about 4.50 miles distant.

## DON'T ACT HASTILY IN REPLY TO WILSON, SAYS THIS PAPER

Manchester Guardian Asks Britains Not to Help Play Germany's Game.

### NEW VIEW BY THE PRESS.

Hope Expressed That Hint of Peace Around the Corner Is Well Founded.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Analyzing the criticisms of President Wilson's note to the belligerent nations, the Manchester Guardian in a remarkable editorial, a column long, which is unique because it endeavors to interpret the President's viewpoint, sounds a word of caution to-day against hasty and ill-considered action in making a reply.

The Guardian believes that the note if coolly considered and wisely answered, can only help the allies' cause and throw into stronger relief the moral weakness of the German position. The newspaper emphasizes a point which it says seems to have been forgotten in this country, that the identical note was addressed to all belligerents, and says that a careful reading of the passage in which President Wilson suggests that both sides are fighting for the same end reveals that the President said that this is what the belligerents tell their own countrymen.

The Manchester Guardian then sounds a warning against the "allies being betrayed into playing Germany's game because if we put ourselves wrong with America we do play Germany's game." The newspaper then adds this advice:

"Let us avoid imputing motives, take the President's note at its face value as a perfectly sincere document meaning simply what it says. The newspaper says when it is remembered that Germany has made no definite proposal it must also be borne in mind that President Wilson does not invite the allies to do anything Germany already has done, and that the note equally is an invitation for Germany to do something she may not find easy."

"If we resent every suggestion of peace and are bent on seeing German mischief-making in every mention of an end to the war we shall quite gratuitously be playing ourselves in an unenviable light."

The London press generally took a new tack to-day in figuring out why President Wilson sent his peace note. The first outburst of indignation having died down somewhat, editorials to-day began speculating on the belief that the American President has "something up his sleeve."

Some had the idea that the note was based on special information which Wilson had obtained as to the exact terms which Germany is willing to make and that the note was not an indication of an anti-Ally sentiment.

The two statements by the American Secretary of State Lansing were held thoroughly bewildering—but the editorials agreed they were a side issue.

All newspapers expressed the hope that the President's hint that peace may be "just around the corner" might have been based on secret information from Germany.

An Amsterdam despatch to the Post mentions a rumor there that Germany sent a note to the neutral powers announcing that a ruthless submarine war would be inaugurated unless peace was concluded and another rumor that Germany planned to close the Mediterranean by means of submarines.

The Fall Mail Gazette came out frankly to-day with the suggestion that the President withdraw the note. "Whether it was simple oversight, or a case of over-sight," the editorial asserted, "the President gravely blundered, and unless the blunder is revoked it will bear evil and irreparable fruit."

## DOBRUDJA BATTLE IN RAIN AND SLUSH

Germans Outnumber Russian Defenders and Force Them Back, Says London.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Bitter fighting in snow and rain and slush is attending the German effort to advance in Dobrudja. Outnumbering the Russian defenders there enormously, they have succeeded in forcing retirement of the Caesar's troops, but only after some hard fought battles along the entire front.

Stopped in their drive northward into Moldavia, it is apparent the Teutons have reinforced their Dobrudja line heavily and transferred their greatest pressure to this front. The object is undoubtedly to exert a flank pressure at a later period in the proposed advance on the Roumanian-Russian forces in the Braila neighborhood.

### ANOTHER BOND.

The Kaiser congratulated Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria yesterday on winning the Battle of the Epagne.

## WILSON ATTACKED BY FRENCH PAPERS FOR WRITING NOTE

Petit Journal Says He Does Not Remember Violation of Belgian Neutrality.

### CLEMENCEAU OBJECTS.

"Inspired by High Sentiments, but Inopportune," Is View Taken by the Paris Matin.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—President Wilson's note and the statements of Secretary Lansing continue to be the sensations of the day and take precedence of everything else in the morning papers. The President's action by no means meets with favor among the commentators, who only vary in the manner of expressing their opinion.

The principal reproach is in the words of Stephen Pichon who, writing in the Petit Journal, says: "The note makes no distinction between the allies who provoked the war and those upon whom it was forced. The belligerents, whoever they are, see themselves treated in the same manner by President Wilson. He does not remember either the violation of Belgian neutrality, the crimes of the submarine warfare or any of the monstrous acts which revolted the conscience of his compatriots and that of the civilized world. Germany—her victims, Belgians, Serbians or French—it is all the same."

"America can appreciate this singular conception as she pleases. We should be lacking in the first of our duties in not holding it up as an outrage to our honor and our dignity."

Georges Clemenceau, former Premier, in his newspaper L'Homme Enchaîné, says: "The moral side of the war has escaped President Wilson. He puts on the same footing all of the belligerents without asking for what reason each of them is fighting. It would seem almost blasphemous to hear it said that 'the objects seem the same on both sides.'"

Lincoln's answer to the French and British offers to mediate between North and South in 1863 is freely quoted and analogies are drawn between the situations then and now.

"What citizen of the United States would blame us if we answered Wilson as Lincoln answered the mediators then?" asks the Echo de Paris.

The Matin says: "The American note is certainly inspired by high sentiments. It is doubtful whether it is opportune. It comes at a moment when it is to every interest of Germany to stop or slacken hostilities. It comes after the four ringing declarations of Sonnino, Pokrovsky, Briand and Lloyd George."

The opinion of the Petit Parisien is expressed as follows: "One may ask with President Wilson himself whether the moment for such intervention was chosen opportunistically. The speeches which were delivered this week by Ministers of the Quadruple Entente have defined the views of the Allies upon the problems of peace and war."

The Journal and the Gaulois think President Wilson was influenced by fear of intensification of submarine warfare and consideration of the consequences of total interruption of sea traffic which Germany should carry out the project they are reported to have decided on and send 125 submarines to American waters. The President also may have been influenced, these papers say, by the increase in the cost of living in the United States.

"Let us consider the President's note coolly," the Gaulois, "and send him an answer courteous but firm, befitting our dignity and our desire to safeguard the future."

## PARIS REPORTS REPULSE OF GERMANS AT AUBERIVE

Considerable Artillery Activity in Region of Hardaumont and Near Chambray.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The text of the French official statement on the progress of hostilities in France, given out this afternoon, reads as follows:

"In the Champagne district, after a spirited bombardment, a detachment of the enemy advanced last night to approach our lines at Auberville, but they were easily repulsed."

"In the region of Hardaumont and near Chambray the artillery of the enemy showed considerable activity."

## SERIOUS FOOD RIOTS REPORTED IN DRESDEN

Police and Military Forces Said to Have Been Called Out—Women Aid Rioters.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Serious food riots at Dresden in which police and military forces were used by the German authorities to quell the attack of a hundred women were reported in Rotterdam despatches to-day to the Exchange Telegraph Company. The riots occurred on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, it was asserted. On Tuesday police were seriously wounded by the rioters.

The Rotterdam despatch asserted that the women joined in a procession which marched past the palace shouting for food. The sharpest fighting occurred Tuesday, when the authorities sought to suppress the demonstration which at that time was joined in by a hundred women.

## LANSING FAVORS INVESTIGATION OF PEACE NOTE 'LEAK'

"Wouldn't Know How to Speculate in Stocks if I wanted To," He Says.

### WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Secretary Lansing said to-day the State Department would welcome an investigation to show whether any Government officials profited through stock speculation resulting from his two statements regarding President Wilson's peace note, such as was proposed in the House yesterday in a resolution by Representative Wood of Indiana.

"If there is the slightest doubt about the two statements issued by me I should welcome an investigation to remove it," said Secretary Lansing. "I don't know anything about stocks and would not know how to speculate if I wanted to. Wall Street has always been a mystery to me."

Counselor Polk said: "If such a charge is being pressed in good faith it ought to be investigated without delay. Officials of the department would welcome it."

It was stated on the highest authority that exceptional care will be taken hereafter to guard against possible leaks of advance information from Washington that might tend to cause price fluctuations.

Government officials were admittedly concerned over the apparent fact that a tip as to the peace note Wednesday reached Wall Street ahead of publication.

The information that the note had been given in the strictest confidence to newspapermen Wednesday morning. Shortly afterward, the news in more or less definite form, was in Wall Street.

Because of this the Government is anxious to weed out any newspaper men who may be serving as "tipsters" for the Street. It realizes that the utmost caution was not taken in making the confidential announcement.

Four men not in the newspaper business were in Secretary Lansing's conference room when he pledged the reporters to secrecy and gave them the information about the note. The whole note proposition was more or less an open secret.

## ARABIA NO TRANSPORT, SAYS BRITISH ADMIRALTY

Declares Torpedoed Steamer Was Never Used as Such in Report to Lansing.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Contradicting Germany's contentions that the steamer Arabia was a British transport, the British government to-day informed the State Department the Arabia was not in Admiralty service when she was torpedoed nor had she ever been in such service.

Great Britain did say, the Arabia carried some government passengers "booked as ordinary packet passengers at the expense of the Government."

The State Department had awaited this word before deciding its course toward Germany in pending submarine matters.

Secretary Lansing indicated he is undecided about passing along the "incomplete information to Germany, and it is thought he will wait for the figures of Great Britain before deciding upon action.

German asserted that the Arabia was in the service of the British Government, filled with coolie laborers, with no women or children visible on board, painted like a transport and carrying the regular transport lane, but has offered repatriation if she shall be shown to have been wrong in that opinion.

## NEW FOREIGN MINISTER NAMED IN AUSTRIA

Count Czernin von Chudenitz Appointed in the Place of Baron von Burian.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Count Czernin von Chudenitz has succeeded Baron von Burian as Austria-Hungarian Foreign Minister, according to a Reuters' Amsterdam despatch quoting the Vienna Wiener Zeitung.

Count Czernin was also named President of the Joint Council of Ministers. He was Minister to Roumania until the time that country entered the war.

Emperor Charles, the despatch says, has conferred on Baron Burian the brilliant of the Order of St. Stefan for his great services as Foreign Minister and has appointed him common Finance Minister in the place of Prince Conrad von Hohenlohe, who has resigned.

Baron von Burian has been repeatedly reported to have resigned as Foreign Minister since he took office in January, 1915, succeeding Count Berchtold. He was generally credited with being strongly under the influence of Berlin.

When Emperor Charles ascended the throne Baron von Burian coupled the duties of Foreign Minister with those of Finance Minister. He was reported to have resigned on Dec. 31 and Count von Hohenlohe was appointed in his stead. Count von Hohenlohe is popularly known as the "Red Prince" because of his radical views and his friendship with the socialists.

## TAMMANY BEATEN; FAILS TO OVERRIDE VETO OF MITCHELL

City Budget, Cut in Board of Aldermen, Will Remain at Original Figure.

### MAYOR IS ASSAILED.

Dowling, in Sarcastic Speech, Denies the Charge of 'Playing Politics.'

The Tammany faction of the Board of Aldermen completely failed this afternoon in its effort to override the veto of Mayor Mitchell on 1917 budget cuts amounting to \$120,000.

When the Board of Estimate, of which the Mayor is Chairman, passed the 1917 budget of \$211,115,016.82 the Aldermen cut \$120,420 in salary increases, new positions and positions they considered useless.

Sixty of the 78 votes in the Board of Aldermen are necessary to override the Mayor's veto. To-day, on the question of salary increases amounting to \$38,320, the Tammanites could get only 49 votes. The Fusionists, who supported the Mayor, cast 29 votes.

On the proposition for thirteen new positions coating the taxpayers \$14,970 and the attempted abolition of sixteen "useless" positions coating \$37,150 the Tammanites got but 48 votes out of the necessary 60. The Fusionists cast 20 votes.

This means that the \$211,115,016.82 budget for 1917 stands as the Board of Estimate passed it.

In a speech bristling with sarcasm and ridicule, Alderman Dowling attacked the Mayor for vetoing the budget cuts.

"If we had been playing politics," declared Alderman Dowling, "we could have cut \$3,000,000 out of the 1917 budget made up by the Board of Estimate and then told the Mayor to put the amount back."

"I desire to serve notice on Mayor Mitchell, and I do not think he ever has reason to doubt my word, that I was not approached either by any member of the board or of any political body whatsoever while the Aldermen were considering the budget. In fact, the Finance Committee of the board took up the budget and analyzed it, item by item, during my absence."

Mr. Dowling then proceeded to flay many of the methods of the Mitchell administration. First of all, he cited an instance of the "rotious use" of the word efficiency.

"During an absence of Mayor Mitchell from the city," he said, "I was acting Mayor and had to present street cleaning medals in Union Square. One of the White Wings who came before me for decoration was a resident of my district. This man, well known to me, was having a badge of honor pinned on him for efficiency. As I affixed the medal I leaned over and asked him how many days a week he was called upon to work and he replied 'three.' That means that the great City of New York shows its appreciation of an efficient man by handing him \$7.50 a week and a medal."

## DENIES TORREON HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY VILLA

Military Commander at Chihuahua City So Replies to Carranza Consul at El Paso.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 23.—A message from Gen. Francisco Murguía, military commander at Chihuahua City, denying that Torreon has been captured by Villa's forces, was received to-day by Eduardo Soriano Bravo, Carranza Consul here.

Gen. Murguía also denied that Jose Ynez Salazar had attacked Chihuahua City from the South.

Persistent rumors that Torreon had been captured by Villa were in circulation here to-day, but Carranza officials here and in Juarez insisted that nothing had been received from the Coahuila metropolis. One report was that Villa forces entered the town at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon and are now in complete possession of the city and surrounding territory.

## ROB SHOP NEAR CAPITOL.

Thieves Smash Jewelry Window Amid Christmas Shoppers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Two men in a throng of Christmas shoppers near the Capitol yesterday threw a brick through the window of a jewelry store and made off with several thousand dollars' worth of valuables.

The police believe that the thieves drove an automobile carrying a Pennsylvania license.

## RESTAURANT EPISODE.

(From the Pittsburgh Post.)

"Why didn't you interfere when the cook chased the waiter with a cleaver and the waitress yelled murder?"

"I thought it was an ordinary cabaret feature. I couldn't understand what the waitress was yelling. I thought she was singing."

WHY IT HAPPENS SO.

(From the Richmond Times Dispatch.)

He—Don't you think that girls nowadays are less intelligent than their mothers were?

She—Oh, no. It may appear that way, but the explanation is that the girls of to-day, in view of the men with whom they are thrown in contact, have less reason to display their intelligence.

## VOLTAIRE BELIEVED SUNK; 49 AMERICANS ON BOARD

Lampport & Holt Virtually Give Up Hope for Their Missing Steamer.

The Lampport & Holt liner Voltaire, with a crew of 147 men, one-third of whom are Americans, is believed to have been sunk by a submarine somewhere in the vicinity of the British Isles. She left Liverpool in ballast for New York Nov. 25 and has not been heard from since.

The Voltaire, which before the war was in the New York-Buenos Ayres trade, left this port Oct. 31 for Liverpool with a cargo of frozen meat. She was scheduled to leave to-day for Buenos Ayres.

Officials of the line have about given up hope for the vessel. She was equipped with a powerful wireless apparatus and could easily have summoned assistance.

The Vauban of the same line, which left Liverpool two weeks after the Voltaire, reported by wireless to Halifax on Thursday, and is expected in port to-morrow. The Voltaire was faster than the Vauban. Little hope is entertained that the crew of the Voltaire was saved if she was wrecked, because the weather since the first of the month has been unusually violent on the North Atlantic.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Sinking of the British steamer Lariston was reported to the State Department to-day from London. Neither place for time for manner was given.

## \$10 GIFTS FROM MRS. SAGE.

She Doubles Her Usual Xmas Donations to 314 Park Employees.

Park Commissioner Ward was Santa Claus to-day by proxy. To the 314 employees in Central Park he presented each a ten-dollar bill, the gift of Mrs. Russell Sage. Mrs. Sage has heretofore given \$5 each to the men.

Of those who shared her beneficence six are eighty years old, 33 are between the ages of seventy-one and eighty, 33 between sixty-one and seventy and 30 between fifty-five and sixty.

## "The Magic Crystal Ball"

EPISODE No. 10

In Which Everything Ends Happily and the Christmas Spirit is Preserved.

JOHNNY riveted his fascinated gaze on the Magic Crystal Ball once more, and saw Old Santa Claus, his face wreathed in smiles, patting each of his faithful reindeer affectionately, then he climbed into his sleigh and, with a crack of the whip and the merry jingle of sleigh bells, in a flurry of snow, was off to sight. The crack of the whip and then—SOMETHING HAPPENED—LITTLE JOHNNY AWOKES! Yes, indeed, he had been brought back from dreamland by the jingle of sleigh bells. He real that Johnny could hardly believe that he was awake. Then he heard Mother calling him and telling him it was bedtime, and that he had plenty of time to write his Christmas letter to Santa Claus. Johnny was very glad that it was all a dream and that the Spirit of Christmas still lived, and that Santa Claus would pay him and all other little boys and girls a visit on the evening of December 24th, and bring them loads of Toys and loads of LOFT CANDY. So this was the happy ending of our little story. THE MAGIC CRYSTAL BALL, which we hope all the kiddies have enjoyed.

(The End.)

## Helpful Suggestions to Aid You in Filling Your Gift List.

Milk Chocolate Marshmallow Cherries

The real French Fruit—Ripe, Red, Luscious—plunged in cream and covered with our famous Premium Milk Chocolate.

OLD FASHIONED CLEAR CANDY—This is the only candy for this good, old-fashioned candy. It is made from pure sugar and cream and is a treat for the little folks.

ITALIAN STYLE CREAM CHOCOLATES—Centres of Vanilla Cream, covering of Swiss Chocolate, old-fashioned Bitter Sweet.

OLD DUTCH CHOCOLATES—Bitter Sweet Chocolate; rich, creamy centres in pure, delicious fruit.

ITALIAN STYLE CREAM CHOCOLATES—Centres of Vanilla Cream, covering of Swiss Chocolate, old-fashioned Bitter Sweet.

GLACE FRENCH FRUIT—Again we demonstrate the Power of American Gold. We paid cash for the goods before delivery and we get the fruit—others get promises. So other confectionery in New York City can offer you Glace French Fruit in 5-lb. Boxes, Half Dozen, 1-lb. Boxes, 2-lb. Boxes, 5-lb. Boxes, 10-lb. Boxes.

ASSORTED HARD CANDIES—The finest collection of toothsome chocolates, fruit, cream, and vanilla, in many styles and flavors, each individually wrapped in cellophane and appropriate holiday boxes.

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OUR ANTIPOCALYPTIC CHOCOLATES—Every dainty in this assortment is a gem of delicious perfection. No finer assortment of sweets and/or solid anywhere at any price. The box has a beautiful design, and when opened becomes a handsome receptacle for jewelry, handkerchiefs or other feminine necessities. Package Complete \$1.50, \$3.00, \$7.50.

GOLD REAL ASSORTED CHOCOLATES or Bon Bons and Chocolates. An exceptionally fine Gift Package. Contains a variety of delicious, satisfying tastes, who appreciate high quality sweets and artistic presentation. The variety is infinitely great and the style of package fulfills every requirement of refined taste. PACKAGE DE LUXE \$1.50, \$3.00, \$7.50.

OLD FASHIONED CLEAR CANDY—Made from pure wholesome sugar, presented in a host of different and pleasing flavors. 5-lb. Boxes, 10-lb. Boxes, 2-lb. Boxes, 5-lb. Boxes, 10-lb. Boxes.

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## GUARD OFFICERS REDUCED FOR SIGNING ROUND ROBIN

Those Who Protested Against Camp Conditions and Food Lose Their Ranks.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 23.—Sergeants and corporals of the Eighth Ohio National Guard who signed the round-robin protest against camp conditions and food have been reduced to the ranks as punishment, Gen. Bell announced to-day.

After several days' investigation army inspectors reported the charges of the guardsmen were without foundation. To more than 500 privates signing the petition no discipline will be administered.

The signing was the result of ignorance on their part, said Gen. Bell, "but there is no excuse for non-commissioned officers taking part."

## SIXTY GIRLS MAROONED ALL NIGHT IN THE SNOW

Normal School Students Held in Stormbound Cars—Food and Coal Rushed.